

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16.(Currently Amended) A backlight for a liquid crystal display, comprising:

a plurality of fluorescent lamps, each fluorescent lamp having an outer periphery;

a plurality of cover layers including layer made of a first resin and respectively covering-
~~an~~ the outer periphery of each of the fluorescent lamps; and

a holder member including made of a second resin in which the plurality of fluorescent
~~lamps with the outer peripheries being covered by the cover layers~~ are enclosed so as to be
juxtaposed with each other, the holder member having a first side and a second side opposed to
the first side,

~~wherein the fluorescent lamps are enclosed in the holder member so that they can be~~
~~extracted from the holder member with the outer peripherals being kept covered by the cover~~
~~layer~~

wherein the holder member comprises a plurality of accommodation holes penetrating
from the first side to the second side, and

wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps are respectively disposed in the plurality of
accommodation holes.

17.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 16,
wherein a hardness of the first resin is lower than that a hardness of the second resin.

18.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 16,
wherein the first resin is a gel-form resin and the second resin is a rigid resin.

19.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 16, wherein a heat resistance of the first resin is greater than ~~that a~~ heat resistance of the second resin.

20.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 17, wherein the first resin is selected from a group consisting of silicone resin ~~or a~~ and fluoride resin, and

wherein the second resin is selected from a group consisting of ~~an~~ epoxy resin, ~~an~~ acrylic resin, ~~or a~~ and polycarbonate resin.

21.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 16, wherein each fluorescent lamp of the plurality of fluorescent lamps has a first end and a second end, and wherein at least one of ~~both ends~~ the first end and the second end of each ~~of the~~ fluorescent lamps ~~is projected~~ extends out of the holder member.

22.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 21, wherein a thickness of ~~the~~ each cover layer is uniform in ~~an elongation~~ a longitudinal direction of ~~the~~ each fluorescent lamp.

23.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 22, wherein each of the fluorescent lamps comprises a bulb with a diameter of ~~a diameter of a bulb~~ of the fluorescent lamps is 4 mm or greater, and ~~the length~~ wherein each of the fluorescent lamps is 300 mm or greater in length.

24.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 16, wherein each accommodation hole has a circumscribing wall, ~~wherein a plurality of accommodation holes are formed in the holder member~~[[,]] and

wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps ~~with the outer peripheries covered by the cover layers~~ are enclosed in the holder member by respectively being inserted into the plurality of accommodation holes ~~so such~~ that the plurality of cover layers are in close contact with the plurality of circumscribing walls ~~hole walls of the accommodation holes~~.

25.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps are respectively disposed in ~~detachably inserted into~~ the plurality of accommodation holes, and wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps are detachable from the plurality of accommodation holes.

26.(Currently Amended) The backlight ~~for liquid crystal display~~ according to claim 25, ~~wherein the accommodation holes are formed so as to penetrate the holder member from one side to the other side~~[[,]] and

wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps each have a first end and a second end, and wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps are inserted into the accommodation holes such that each first end extends from the first side of the holder member beyond the holder member in a longitudinal direction and each second end extends from the second side of the holder member beyond the holder member in the longitudinal direction ~~so that both ends thereof are projected out of the holder member from the sides~~.

27.(Currently Amended) A lighting device, comprising:

a plurality of fluorescent lamps, each fluorescent lamp having an outer periphery;

a plurality of cover layers including~~layer made of~~ a first resin and respectively covering an outer periphery of each ~~of the fluorescent lamps~~lamp; and

a holder member ~~including~~made of a second resin, in which the plurality of fluorescent lamps ~~with the outer peripheries being covered by the cover layers~~ are enclosed so as to be juxtaposed with each other[[.]].

wherein the holder member comprises a plurality of accommodation holes penetrating from the first side to the second side, and

wherein the plurality of fluorescent lamps are respectively disposed in the plurality of accommodation holes.

28.(Canceled)

29.(New) The backlight according to claim 16, wherein each fluorescent lamp has a cross-section orthogonal to a longitudinal direction of the fluorescent lamp, the cross-section being completely circumscribed by a respective cover layer of the plurality of cover layers.

30.(New) The backlight according to claim 29, wherein each of the cover layers is completely circumscribed by the holder member.

31.(New) The backlight according to claim 29, wherein the fluorescent lamps and the cover layers engage the holder member such that the fluorescent lamps and the cover layers are detachable from the plurality of accommodation holes.

32.(New) The backlight according to claim 16, wherein the plurality of accommodation holes are discrete such that the plurality of fluorescent lamps are isolated.

33.(New) The backlight according to claim 16, wherein each cover layer has an outer circumference, wherein the distance between the outer periphery and the outer circumference constitutes a thickness of the cover layer, and wherein the thickness is uniform.

34.(New) The backlight according to claim 16, wherein each accommodation hole is a thru-hole.

35.(New) The backlight according to claim 29, wherein a hardness of the first resin is lower than a hardness of the second resin, and wherein a heat resistance of the first resin is greater than a heat resistance of the second resin.